

poor jack-ass lying on the ground groaning. He supposed that some cruel master had travelled this poor creature too far without feeding him, that he had fallen with fatigue, and that his cruel master had forsaken him. Observing that there was a hay-stack very near, he went and pulled some hay, which he gave to the poor animal, as you see in the picture at the head of this chapter. This refreshed the creature so much, that he got upon his legs, when our little traveller led him to a pond of water to drink, and then he appeared to be so much recovered, that he could walk about and graze at ease.

“ Finding the poor ass could now take care of itself, he redoubled his pace, fearing he should be belated; but he had not gone far before he overtook a poor beggar woman, who had two children in her arms, and one following her.

“ God bless you, my dear little master,

(said the poor woman) do give me a penny to buy me a little bread, neither I nor my poor babes have a morsel of bread this day.”

“ money, good woman, (said the traveller) I have none; but what provision I have left, you are welcome to it.” So saying, he gave her what he had left, and away he trudged.

“ Before he had got to his end, he heard a poor man in a hurry coming out for assistance. He asked what was the matter, and the man told him he had lost his way. The traveller was surprized at the time when he saw the man never afraid to stir; but he soon found that the blind man, who could find his way from town to town by himself; but some how or other bewildered himself, afraid to stir, lest he should turn some bad place; and well it was that he did not, as he had got